

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Safety Operations Report

City Council Regular Meeting – July 14, 2020



Ryan Johansen – Chief of Police

# Background

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July presents safety challenges
  - Use of illegal fireworks before, during and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Large, unruly gatherings
  - Increased alcohol use
  - Health challenges due to COVID-19
  - Exacerbated when the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend
- Expansive education, prevention and enforcement operations annually
  - Funded by Safe and Sane Fireworks sales
  - Does not stop rampant illegal fireworks use

# Other Cities Have Similar Challenges

- Number of fireworks-related calls for service on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2020
  - San Mateo: 172
  - East Palo Alto: 121
  - South San Francisco: 91
  - Daly City: 88
    - None of these Cities have a funding source for large-scale enforcement
    - Generally do NOT respond to fireworks complaints
- Pacifica: 191
  - Only other SM County City allowing safe and sane fireworks use/sales
  - Enforcement similar to San Bruno
    - Funded with fees imposed on safe and sane firework sales



# Pre-4<sup>th</sup> of July Operations

- All Police Department personnel ordered to work
- Robust Incident Action Plan created and approved
- Joint Fire/Police PSA created and disseminated
- Safety meetings with all booth operators
- Educational flyers provided with every fireworks sale
- Informational warning notices to all City Facilities
- Advance police contact at known violation locations
- Use of data to focus resource deployment
- Dedicated enforcement details prior to 4<sup>th</sup>

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Staffing

- All SBPD personnel ordered to work
  - 50 staff (Officers, Dispatchers, Clerks, CSOs)
    - 36 sworn and 14 non-sworn
    - Many worked 16 consecutive hours
    - All beats staffed as usual, plus dedicated enforcement units deployed
      - Marked and unmarked units
      - Uniformed and plain clothes personnel
      - Bicycles and motorcycles
      - Undercover surveillance
- Dedicated Fire Department Staff
- Dedicated Parks Department Staff
- Dedicated Streets Department Staff





# Calls for Service

- SBPD handled 276 calls for service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Peak activity period – 8:30pm to 11:30pm
  - 177 calls for service during this 3-hour period alone
  - 182 calls were fireworks related
    - Significant increase from 147 last year
    - But not much more than the 173 in 2018
    - Fairly normal when holiday falls on weekend
    - Most reports vague and marginally workable
      - Officers must “on-view” violations to cite
- Observationally...
  - Illegal fireworks heavier this year
  - Fewer large gatherings
  - More, smaller groups spread the violations





# Enforcement

- \$1,000 Administrative Citation
  - Citing Officer must directly observe a specific person committing a specific violation
  - Officer must then safely detain the violator
    - Municipal Code infraction doesn't justify compromised safety
  - Violator must be cited, not physically arrested
  - Only evidence in plain view can be seized
  - Resident-provided video can help identify suspects, but cannot replace "in presence" legal requirement
  - Person(s) in control of a gathering can be cited
    - Must prove knowledge (warning)



# Enforcement Data

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Admin Cites	38	21	25	22	11	11	9	8	9
Arrests	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

- 38 Administrative Citations issued this year
  - Almost double last year's total
  - Most ever issued
  - Of the 38 people cited 25 were San Bruno residents
  - 5 cites issued at one problem location
  - Particularly commendable with COVID and attacks on Police
- About 58 pounds of live illegal fireworks seized
  - 35 pounds over the annual average
  - Also over 100 pounds of spent fireworks collected



# Preliminary Cost Estimate

Department	Nature	Cost
Police Department	Public Service Announcement	\$ 481.80
Community Services	Additional Staff on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 1,780.96
Fire Department	Fire Marshal Administrative and Inspection Hours	\$ 2,453.18
Fire Department	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Staffing and Logistics	\$ 13,558.94
Police Department	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Staffing and Logistics	\$ 28,464.60
Police Department	Pre and Post 4 <sup>th</sup> Education and Enforcement / Logistics	\$ 5,740.34
Public Works	Cleanup Costs (Labor & Equipment)	\$ 3,047.25
Total		<b>\$ 55,527.07</b>

NOTE: Costs covered by fees collected from Safe & Sane Firework sales  
Cities without such sales have no funding source for these operations

# Police Department Annual Debrief

- Enhance what works well
  - Increase use of undercover surveillance units
  - Expand use of the “responsible party” clause
  - Conduct buy/bust operations further in advance
  - Increase use of unmarked vehicles
  - Expand bike and foot patrols
  - Increase use of data to direct resources
- Reduce or eliminate what is ineffective
  - Limit response to calls without specific locations and/or suspects
- Consider other enhancements
  - Return of outside agency assistance
  - Evaluate observation technologies

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Ari Delay – Fire Chief

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Staffing

- San Bruno Fire Department staffed
- 1 extra ALS Engine Company
  - (3 Engine, 1 Truck in the city)
- All fire prevention staff on duty
- Fire Chief





# Calls for Service

- San Bruno Fire Department handled 24 calls for service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Peak activity period – 9:30pm to 1:30am
  - Half of the calls for service were during this 4-hour period alone (13)
  - 25% of the calls were fireworks related (6)



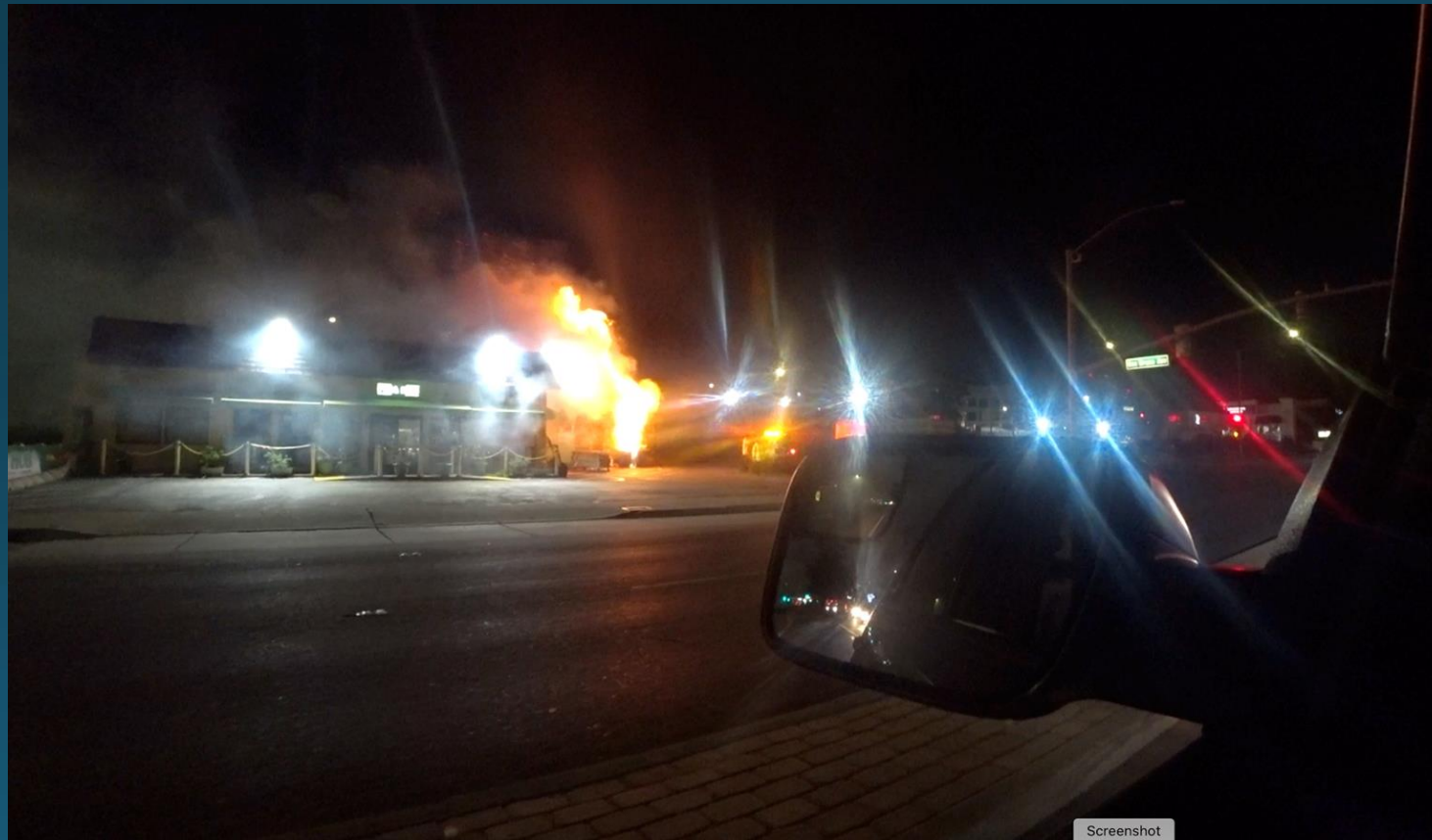
# Calls for Service

- San Bruno Fire Department noticed an increase in fire related calls during the week leading up to July 4th

Date	Fire related	Total Calls
June 6 - June 14	1	64
June 15 - June 21	0	72
June 22 - June 28	9	75
June 29 - July 5	13	88

# Calls for Service

Patrolling mitigated fires from causing more damage.



# Observations

- Illegal fireworks use was notably heavier this year than most
- Prevention early detection was critical
- Weed abatement efforts were made prior to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
City Public Works and San Bruno Parks Department  
Contract for weed abatement during the year
- No injuries from July 4<sup>th</sup> activities





Questions????

